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HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMMEUNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTSTéléc: (41-22) 9179011
Télégramme: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Téléc: 41 22 62
Téléphone: (41-22) 91-79151
Internet: www.unhcr.chAddress:
rue des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: GSO 221/921(3)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva and has the honour to refer to his Note Verbale of 7 November 2005 concerning the reports of the United States of America, submitted in accordance with article 40 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for transmission to the Human Rights Committee.

At its 86th session, the Committee confirmed that the reports of the United States of America are scheduled to be considered during the Human Rights Committee's 87th session on Monday, 17 July (from 15h00 to 18h00) and Tuesday, 18 July 2006 (from 10h00 to 13h00), at the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office, at Geneva (Conference Room number to be provided at a later stage). Nevertheless, as explained during the working lunch between the Committee's Chairperson and the United States delegation in New York on 16 March 2006 and in the attached note for the presentation of reports to the Human Rights Committee, while at your request, the Committee is planning 2 meetings; additional time may be needed to complete the examination of the reports, a practice already followed by the Committee for several other States parties reports. Therefore, the Committee would appreciate the same cooperation and flexibility from the United States delegation. In order to facilitate the participation of the Delegation of Your Excellency's Government at the Committee's 87th session, an advance unedited version of the list of issues adopted by the Human Rights Committee during its 86th session is attached to this note to assist the Delegation of Your Excellency's Government for the preparation of the oral hearing. As mentioned during the above-mentioned working lunch dated 16 March 2006, the Committee would appreciate it if written replies to the list of issues could be limited to a maximum of 30 pages and be forwarded at least 3 weeks prior the examination of the report. The Committee would also be most grateful if written replies could be sent in English, French and Spanish as was suggested by the delegation on 16 March 2006.

The Secretary-General would appreciate being informed in writing of the names and titles of the representatives whom His Excellency wishes to designate for the above-mentioned purpose.

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31 March 2006